



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2005 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE D-3

(Includes Additional Hunts G-7, G-12, J-8, J-9, and J16)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-3 located in portions of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter and Yuba counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2005 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone D-3 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-3, hunters must possess a Zone D3-5 deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take in either: Zone D-3, D-4 or D-5. Season dates may vary between these zones, so be sure to check the current regulations for the zone you plan to hunt.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone D-3 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-3 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate "D" zone where they killed their buck (Zone D-3, D-4 or D-5); attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone D-3 contains a mixture of both public and private lands however most of the public land is in the eastern portion of the zone. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within the zone are administered by the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests (USFS). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Plumas National Forest, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971-6025 (530-283-2050)

Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St., Nevada City CA 95959 (530-265-4531)

There are some public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the western portion of the zone, but access is extremely limited. Hunting is also allowed on Spenceville and Daugherty Hill Wildlife Areas, administered by the Department of Fish and Game. For more information and maps of these areas contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

In Zone D-3 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Plumas and Tahoe National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825; (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Major highways include Highway 70 on the north, Highway 80 on the south, Highway 20 and Highway 49. Access to the Bullards Bar Reservoir area is via Highway 49 or, from Marysville, via Highway 20 to Marysville Road.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this zone can be highly variable, so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry during archery and early general season, but early storms are not uncommon. The chance for significant snowfall increases throughout the season, but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-3 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of D-3. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the

back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are several USFS campgrounds within the hunt zone and these are shown on USFS maps. Informal camping is allowed on both USFS and BLM lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply and it is best to contact the local USFS, BLM or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone D-3 is considered stable to declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-3 include both Columbian black-tailed deer and California mule deer. The deer are generally considered migratory however resident deer occur at lower elevations. Deer in this area move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone D-3 ranging from oak-woodland, mixed and montane chaparral, hardwood, hardwood-conifer, aspen and dense conifer to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Brush stands comprised of buckbrush, deerbrush and bitter cherry are good areas to hunt. Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Historically, some of the more popular and productive deer hunting areas in Zone D-3 include:

Butte County: Feather Falls area: This is largely winter range and hunting is best during the latter portion of the season. Specific areas include: Fields Ridge, southeast of Feather Falls; Sunset Hill, Camp 18 and

Watkins Ridge.

Brush Creek area: This is largely winter range and hunting is best during the latter portion of the season. Specific areas include: Merrimac and Coyote Gap.

Mooreville Ridge Road/Sly Creek Reservoir: Migratory deer are generally present in mid-October.

Nevada County: Specific areas include: Bowman Lake, Grouse Ridge and Red Mountain. Migratory deer can still be found at these high elevations early to mid-season.

Plumas County: La Porte area: Access is via the La Porte Road from Marysville. Hunting has been poor for several years, but areas around Little Grass Valley Reservoir, Camel Peak, Stag Point and Onion Valley have historically been better areas.

Bucks Lake area: Access is via the Quincy-Oroville Highway. Specific areas include the area between Bucks Lake and the Middle Fork of the Feather River, Bear Creek and Willow Creek.

Eureka Ridge area: Access is from Highway 70 at Sloat and Highway 89 at Graeagle. Specific areas include White Cap and Big Hill.

Sierra County: Haypress Meadows, Jackson Meadows Reservoir: Access is via the Jackson Meadows Highway from Highway 89. Best hunting in this area is early in the season.

Lakes Basin, Sierra Buttes: Access is via the Gold Lake Road from Highways 89 and 49. In good years, hunting success is favorable throughout the season. Late in the season, deer migrate to the west down Pig and Hog Canyons.

Yuba County: Challenge/Peterson Ridge Road/Pike County Peak Lookout area: Migratory deer are generally present in mid-October. Several thousand acres of USFS and private timber company land east of Oregon Hill Road and west of Bullards Bar Reservoir.

North of Bullards Bar Reservoir: Migratory deer are generally present in mid-October. Several thousand acres of USFS and private timber company land mixed with a few private ranches. Specific areas include: Strawberry Valley/Slate Creek (south of La Porte Road), Pendola Road, Garden Valley Road, McClain Roads. Access is from Highway 49 near Camptonville.

Bullards Bar Reservoir: Migratory deer are generally present in mid-October. Boats can be launched from ramps located along Marysville Road. Best areas to hunt are the black oak groves along the north arm of the lake.

Spenceville Wildlife Area: Resident deer are present throughout the year. Migratory deer generally do not arrive until late October. Access from Wheatland is via Spenceville Road to Camp Far West Road to Long Ravine Road. Access from Marysville/Grass Valley is via Highway 20 to Smartville Road.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area: Resident deer are present throughout the year. Migratory deer generally do not arrive until late October. Access from Marysville/Grass Valley is via Highway 20 to Marysville Road to the parking lot on Dolan Harding Road. Local camping facilities are available at the Collins Lake Recreation Area (530-692-1600).

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2005, there are five additional hunt opportunities within Zone D-3: 1) G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt; military only); 2) G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt); 3) J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area

Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt); 4) J-9 (Little Dry Creek Junior Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt); and 5) J-16 (Bucks Mountain/Nevada City Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

2005 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(4) Zone D-3-5.

(A) Area: Shall include all of zones D-3, D-4, and D-5 (see subsections 360(a)(4)(A)1. through 3.).

1. Zone D-3.

In those portions of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter and Yuba counties within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 162 at Willows; east on Highway 162 to Highway 70 at Oroville; northeast on Highway 70 to Highway 89; south on Highway 89 to the new Gold Lake Road (near Graeagle); south on the new Gold Lake Road to Highway 49 at Bassett; east on Highway 49 to Yuba Pass; south on the Yuba Pass-Webber Lake Road (main haul road) through Bonta Saddle to the Jackson Meadows Highway (Fiberboard Road); west on the Jackson Meadows Highway for two miles to the White Rock Lake Road; south on the White Rock Lake Road to the new road to White Rock Lake (below Bear Valley); south and east on the new White Rock Lake Road to the Pacific Crest Trail (one mile west of White Rock Lake in section 21, T18N, R14E, M.D.B.M.); south and east on the Pacific Crest Trail to Interstate 80 near the Castle Peak-Boreal Ridge Summit; west on Interstate 80 to Highway 20; west on Highway 20 to the Bear River in Bear Valley; west along the Bear River to Highway 65 near Wheatland; north on Highway 65 to Highway 70; north on Highway 70 to Highway 20 in Marysville; west on Highway 20 to Interstate 5 at Williams; north on Interstate 5 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season for zones for D-3 through D-5 shall open on the fourth Saturday in September and extend for 37 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 33,000. The Zone D-3-5 tag is valid in zones D-3, D-4, and D-5.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(4) G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of Yuba County lying within the exterior boundaries of Beale Air Force Base.

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 79 consecutive days, except if rescheduled by the Commanding Officer with Department concurrence between the season opener and December 31.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 20 (military only).

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only shotguns with single slugs or muzzleloading rifles, crossbows, and archery equipment as specified in sections 353 and 354 may be used.

2. In the event the Commanding Officer cancels the hunt, G-7 tagholders will only have the option of exchanging the unused tag for any remaining deer tag or receiving a refund.

(9) G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: Those portions of Butte and Sutter counties within the exterior boundaries of the Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area.

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for nine consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 30.

(E) Special Conditions: Only shotguns and ammunition as specified in Section 353 may be used.

(30) J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of Yuba County within the exterior boundaries of the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (as defined in Section 550, Title 14, CCR).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the first Saturday in December and extend through December 31.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 15.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

3. Tagholders shall attend an orientation meeting the day before the opening day of the season.

(31) J-9 (Little Dry Creek Junior Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of Butte County within the exterior boundaries of the Little Dry Creek Unit Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (as defined in Section 550).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-9 (Little Dry Creek Junior Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 9 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)), per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 5.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).
2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.
3. Tagholders shall attend an orientation meeting the day before the opening day of the season.
4. Only shotguns and ammunition as specified in Section 353 may be used.

(38) J-16 (Bucks Mountain-Nevada City Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: Excluding Butte, Colusa and Glenn Counties, in those portions of Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter and Yuba Counties within the area described as zone D-3 (see subsection 360(a)(4)(A)1).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-16 (Bucks Mountain-Nevada City Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be concurrent with the zone D-3 general season as defined in subsection 360(a)(4)(B).

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 75.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).
2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(4) D Zones.

(A) Zones D-3 through D-5.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(4)(A)1. through 3.
2. Season: The archery season in Zones D-3, D-4, and D-5 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 days.
3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.
4. Special Conditions: Hunters that possess a Zone D-3-5 tag may hunt in zones D-3, D-4, and D-5.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****